

**JUDICIAL BRANCH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STATUS REPORT**  
**A Report to the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on**  
**General Government and Transportation**

**Submitted by Lois Menzies, Court Administrator**  
**Montana Supreme Court**  
**January 2007**

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This report is submitted in compliance with section 3-1-702, MCA, which requires the court administrator to report to the General Government and Transportation Subcommittee on the "status of development and procurement of information technology within the judicial branch." The report provides a Judicial Branch IT profile, a progress report on recent IT projects, and a summary of 2009 biennium IT funding proposals.

**Judicial Branch IT Profile**

The Office of Court Administrator (OCA) supports 947 users within the Supreme Court, the Water Court, 56 District Courts, 5 Municipal Courts, 66 Justices Courts, and 81 City Courts. This support includes purchase, installation, networking, and maintenance of computers and office software and deployment, training, and maintenance of case management systems. In addition, the OCA provides support for courtroom technology, including interactive video, court reporting and recording equipment, sound systems, and other technologies found in the courtroom.

The table on the following page provides information on the number of sites served and number of computers maintained and on the case management systems and data networks used by the various courts and offices within the Judicial Branch.

**Table 1.1: Judicial Branch IT Profile**

<b>Court/Office</b>	<b>Sites</b>	<b>Computers</b>	<b>Case Management System</b>	<b>Connectivity</b>
Supreme Court	1	28	C-Track II	State Data Network (SummitNet)
Clerk of the Supreme Court	1	7	C-Track	State Data Network (SummitNet)
Water Court	1	15	None	State Data Network (SummitNet)
District Courts	56	148	Graphical Judicial Case Management System or FullCourt	State Data Network (SummitNet)
Youth Court Staff	35	140	Juvenile Case Assessment and Tracking System	State Data Network (SummitNet)
Clerk of District Court	56	291	Graphical Judicial Case Management System or FullCourt	Varies – Local Government Networks and SummitNet
Courts of Limited Jurisdiction	91	316	FullCourt	Varies – Local Government Networks and SummitNet
Law Library	1	14	N/A	Summitnet
Office Court Administrator	2	36	N/A	Summitnet
Total		995		

### **Judicial Branch IT Progress Report: 2007 Biennium**

The Judicial Branch worked in cooperation with the Executive Branch during the 2007 biennium to provide information technology services to employees of the Judicial Branch. This partnership enabled the Judicial Branch to achieve many of its key information technology strategic objectives using State of Montana enterprise information technology standards and resources.

The table on the following page lists the major IT milestones achieved by the Judicial Branch during the 2007 biennium.

**Table 1.2: Judicial Branch Major IT Accomplishments – 2007 Biennium**

<b>strategic Goal/ May 2005</b>	Completed deployment of a case management system for Youth Courts, including a risk assessment tool for juvenile offenders – Juvenile Case Assessment and Tracking System (JCATS)
<b>strategic Goal/ July 2005</b>	Completed network upgrades to all courthouses providing connectivity to Clerks of the District Court and Courts of Limited Jurisdiction
<b>strategic Goal/ September 2005</b>	Created Court Central Repository for Courts of Limited Jurisdiction to allow electronic data exchange, disaster recovery, and data collection
<b>strategic Goal/ December 2005</b>	Completed the deployment of a major upgrade to the case management system for Clerks of District Court – Graphic Judicial Case Management System (G-JCMS)
<b>strategic Goal/ January 2006</b>	Completed deployment of case management system for Clerk of Supreme Court (G-Track)
<b>strategic Goal/ May 2006</b>	Installed interactive video systems in Park, Ravalli, Lincoln, and Lake Counties, providing an interactive video capability in each judicial district. Also, worked with Departments of Administration, Corrections, and Public Health and Human Services to improve interactive video services between courts and state institutions
<b>strategic Goal/ July 2006</b>	Completed pilot project for deployment of new case management system (FullCourt) in 4th Judicial District (Missoula and Mineral Counties). Also, electronic reporting from Court Central Repository to Motor Vehicle Division, Department of Justice
<b>strategic Goal/ September 2006</b>	Completed deployment of common case management system (FullCourt) in Courts of Limited Jurisdiction
<b>strategic Goal/ October 2006</b>	Launched new web-based search capability for Supreme Court documents
<b>November 2006</b>	Supreme Court Commission on Technology updates Judicial Branch's Information Technology strategic plan

## **Judicial Branch IT Funding Proposals: 2009 Biennium**

The Judicial Branch is seeking funding for the 2009 biennium for the following IT proposals:

### **House Bill No. 2 (General Appropriations Act)**

- \$260,723 for each fiscal year for maintenance of two case management systems: FullCourt and C-Track. FullCourt has been deployed in 141 municipal, city, and justices' courts and in the District Courts in Mineral and Missoula Counties. C-Track has been deployed in the Office of the Clerk of the Supreme and is being deployed in the Supreme Court.

### **House Bill No. 14 (Information Technology Capital Projects)**

- \$3.9 million (one-time only) appropriation for several projects to continue the Judicial Branch's efforts to modernize Montana courts. These projects fall into two categories:
  - Case Management Improvements. Complete deployment of a common case management system (FullCourt) in the District Courts, including a document imaging and jury management subsystem. Also, conduct an electronic case filing pilot project.
  - Courtroom Technology Improvements. Maintain judicial interactive video network and make improvements in courtroom sound systems, recording systems, and evidence display systems.

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